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Armenia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Norway, Palau, Panama, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay: draft resolution

Agricultural technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/197 of 21 December 2009 on agricultural technology for development,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[5]

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6]

Recalling its resolution 65/178 of 20 December 2010 on agriculture development and food security,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] See resolution 60/1.

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Noting the previous work done by the Commission on Sustainable Development, in particular at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions, highlighting the thematic focus on agriculture,

Acknowledging the work performed by the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, established by the Secretary-General in 2008, and recalling the World Summit on Food Security, convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 16 to 18 November 2009, and underlining the importance of advancing and implementing agricultural technologies,

Welcoming the commitments set out in the Joint Statement on Global Food Security, adopted in L'Aquila, Italy, on 10 July 2009,[7] which focused on sustainable agriculture development,

Recalling its resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals", reaffirming its commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizing the beneficial impact that the adoption of agricultural technologies can have for the achievement of many of those goals,

Noting the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,[8] held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and concerned by the pace of progress to date in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, particularly in the least developed countries and in Africa, and recognizing the need for all actors to intensify their efforts in order to reach those goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as to continue to work towards fulfilling the commitments made in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[9]

Looking forward to a successful outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, that secures renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges, and that includes the two themes to be discussed and refined in the preparatory process, namely, a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development,

Stressing the critical role of women in the agricultural sector and their contribution to enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food and nutritional security and eradicating rural poverty, and underlining the fact that meaningful progress in agricultural development necessitates, inter alia, closing the gender gap and ensuring that women have equal participation in labour markets and equal access to agricultural resources and social services, including health care and health services,

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[7] Available from www.ifad.org/events/g8. .

[8] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.I), chaps. I and II.

[9] Ibid., chap. II.

Acknowledging the role and work of civil society and the private sector in furthering progress in developing countries, in promoting the use of sustainable agricultural technology and the training of smallholder farmers,

Considering the increasing need to innovate in agriculture in order to respond to the challenges posed by, inter alia, climate change and the depletion and scarcity of natural resources, and recognizing that sustainable agricultural technologies can greatly contribute to economic development and help to mitigate the impact of climate change, land degradation and desertification,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on agricultural technology for development;[10]

2. *Urges* Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other stakeholders to strengthen efforts to improve the transfer of technologies under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms to developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in particular at the bilateral and regional levels, and to support national efforts to foster the utilization of local know-how and agricultural technologies, promote agricultural technology research and access to knowledge and information through suitable communication for development strategies, and enable rural women, as well as men and youth, to increase sustainable agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest losses and enhance food and nutritional security;

3. *Encourages* international, regional and national efforts to strengthen the capacity of developing countries, in particular their small-scale producers, in order to enhance the productivity and nutritional quality of food crops, promote sustainable practices in pre-harvest and post-harvest agricultural activities and enhance food and nutritional security;

4. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant United Nations organizations and other stakeholders to mainstream gender into agricultural policies and projects and to focus on closing the gender gap to achieve equal access for women to agricultural resources, labour markets, labour-saving technologies, agricultural technology information and know-how, equipment and decision-making forums to ensure that agriculture, food- and nutritional security-related programmes and policies take into consideration the specific needs of women and youth;

5. *Underlines* the importance of supporting and advancing research in improving and diversifying crop varieties and seed systems, as well as supporting the establishment of sustainable agricultural systems and management practices, such as conservation agriculture and integrated pest management, in order to make agriculture more resilient and, in particular, to make crops and farm animals, including livestock, more tolerant to diseases, pests and environmental stresses, including drought and climate change, in a manner consistent with national regulations and relevant international agreements;

6. *Also underlines* the importance of the sustainable use and management of water resources to increase and ensure agricultural productivity, and calls for further efforts to strengthen irrigation facilities and water-saving technology;

7. *Encourages* Member States, civil society and public and private institutions to develop partnerships to support financial and market services,

[10] A/66/304.

including training, capacity-building, infrastructure and extension services, and calls for further efforts by all stakeholders to include smallholder farmers, in particular rural women, in planning and taking decisions about making appropriate sustainable agricultural technologies and practices available and affordable to smallholder farmers;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to include sustainable agricultural development as an integral part of their national policies and strategies, notes the positive impact that North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation can have in this regard, and urges the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to include elements of agricultural technology, research and development in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, with a focus on the research and development of technology that is affordable, durable and sustainable and that can be easily used by and disseminated to smallholder farmers, in particular rural women;

9. *Requests* relevant United Nations organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to promote, support and facilitate the exchange of experience among Member States on ways to augment sustainable agriculture and management practices, such as conservation agriculture, and increase the use of agricultural technologies that have a positive impact on the entire value chain, including technology for post-harvest crop storage and transportation, especially in pressing environmental circumstances;

10. *Underlines* the instrumental role of agricultural technology in furthering sustainable development and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, calls therefore upon Member States and encourages relevant international bodies to support sustainable agricultural research and development, and in this regard calls for continued support to the international agricultural research system, including the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other relevant international organizations;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.